

THREE COUNT[®]

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Frey Transferred; Ross Promoted

By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor

Kip Frey, World Championship Wrestling's executive vice president since last January, is transferring to a non-wrestling position in the Ted Turner organization, and WCW announcer Jim Ross will assume most of Frey's old responsibilities.

Frey is transferring to a vice president role in a new position supervised by Turner executive Jack Petrick, the overseer of WCW until last March. Frey's new duties have not yet been completely defined, but he says he will be responsible for developing several new Turner business ventures (a record and movie company, and possibly the production of Broadway plays). The transfer will probably occur later this week.

"I talked to Jack about it, and it's just one of those things that is more in line with my training and background," Frey said. "There's not a lot to do here, so it's best I go over there. It is a better opportunity in the long run."

Frey said the move was being looked a few months ago, but the hiring of Bill Watts as vice president in charge of wrestling operations "crystallized" the transfer. Watts was given complete power to run the wrestling company, and Frey was taken away from the day-by-day operations of WCW. Frey was put in charge of television syndication, wrestlers contracts and the marketing of new wrestlers.

"Running the company was great, and I really enjoyed it," Frey said. "I learned a lot and got a real appreciation for the business. I made a lot of good friends and look at wrestling completely differently now."

Frey, 33, began working for Turner in April 1991 with a background in entertainment law. He assumed the vice presidency formerly held by Jim Herd when the latter resigned last January.

Frey implemented various reforms unheard of previously in the wrestling business. Wrestlers began doing unadvertised community service work in areas where WCW was running house shows.

Frey implemented a steroid policy that called for mandatory testing in August should wrestlers not voluntarily show an effort to stop using the muscle-enhancing drug. Frey also worked toward

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Briefly

- Larry Zbyszko officially turned babyface May 23 at a World Championship Wrestling television taping in Chatanooga before an estimated crowd of 3,000. Zbyszko was told by manager Paul E. Dangerously that to remain in the Dangerous Alliance he had to defeat Steve Austin. Zbyszko then slapped Dangerously, but agreed to the match. The bout ended when Zbyszko had Austin pinned, but Bobby Eaton delivered a leg drop off the top rope onto the back of Zbyszko's head, setting up an Austin pinfall.

Two new feuds also were established at the four-hour, 45-minute television taping. Nikita Koloff will be facing Rick Rude starting in late June. The two did interviews harping on each other early in the taping. After a Rude squash match, Koloff came out and the two had a pull-apart brawl that was said to have been very good. Dustin Rhodes and Ron Simmons will also be teaming against Terry Taylor and Greg Valentine.

The taping did not show many of the qualities new WCW vice president Bill Watts is expected to bring upon his first set of television tapings June 1. One example is the lack of a clean finish in the Rude-Ricky Steamboat dark match, where Steamboat was disqualified for using Dangerously's telephone. In the main dark match, Sting and the Steiner brothers defeated Austin-Arn Anderson-Cactus Jack (subbing for Eaton) when Sting pinned Jack.

- The Ultimate Warrior-Papa Shongo feud continues to grow stranger and stranger. On last weekend's WWF telecasts, the Warrior threw up in the locker room after Shongo cast a voodoo spell on him. During an interview this week, a black substance (described as "evil goo") began dripping down the

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Briefly

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Warrior's head during an interview.

- The Elizabeth controversy also continued on WWF telecasts, as Ric Flair played an answering machine tape "from Liz" in a hilarious vignette. Flair vs. Randy Savage headlines the Miami Arena June 7.

- Contrary to other published reports, El Gigante (Jorge Gonzalez) was not released by WCW, but given a four-month respite. Gigante returned home to Argentina to attend his mother's funeral. Shortly after, his father suffered a major heart attack. Gonzalez was given permission to stay in Argentina by former WCW vice president Kip Frey.

- More WCW rule changes: Complimentary tickets have been limited to two per person in hopes of raising abysmal house show attendance. Also, the attendance and gates of live shows are no longer being released by the company. Dave Meltzer of the *Wrestling Observer Newsletters* said free tickets will be drastically reduced for television tapings, with less light being used to focus on attendance to hide the empty seats in the arena. WCW will conduct one more television taping (May 27 in Anderson, S.C.) before Watts ar.

- WCW's increased house show appearances begin in August. For Floridians, WCW is appearing August 15 in Jacksonville and I believe has dates the days following in Fort Myers and Fort Pierce. WCW has a June 21 show in Tallahassee. WCW will not return to South Florida until it improves its syndicated station positioning in the market (currently, WCW's only outlet is a 6 a.m. slot on Channel 7 WSVN on Sundays).

- Expect South Florida wrestler Steve Collins to tour for the Japanese group W*INGS beginning July 15 in a Lucifer gimmick with Kevin Sullivan.

- According to news from Steve Sims' Lucha Libre Weekly, here is an update on the situation in Mexico City. Antonio Pena's AAA group managed to tape its inaugural May 15 card and telecast it throughout Mexico via the Televisa network (which also airs Paco Alonso's CMLL promotion). The show was said to be excellent, with Perro Aguayo-El Fantasma-Mascara Sagrada defeating the Dynamite Brothers (Cien Caras-Mascara Año 2000-Universo 2000) in two straight falls. There is now speculation that the AAA may replace the CMLL on Galavision after all, or Televisa may arrange for the telecast of both shows.

Sheet Spotlight

Here's a look at the top stories of some of the other wrestling newsletters, with subscription information:

- **Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer Newsletter** (May 25): Extremely well-written analysis of Bill Watts joining WCW; Analysis of Wrestle War; Discussion of Riki Choshu and Yoshiaki Yatsu possibly participating in upcoming Olympic games; Loads of regional and international news. *Weekly*; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228.

- **Wade Keller's Pro Wrestling Torch** (May 21): Interview with Watts; Analysis of Wrestle War; Regional and house show reports, and letters. *Weekly*; \$1.25 an issue (Free sample available). P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis MN 55420.

- **Steve Sims's Lucha Libre Weekly** (May 19): Complete report on new developments in the AAA, including results of their first telecast; Analysis of FMW show in Los Angeles and lucha shows from throughout Mexico; Hate to be nice, but this publication gets better each week (and that says a lot). *Weekly*; \$1 an issue. 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-3003.

- **Ron Lemieux's Arena Report** (May 18): Live report from Wrestle War and behavior of those "in-the-know" who attended; Klon Brody with the nickname of the year -- Jim "Hidden Agenda" Ross. Good stuff. *Bi-weekly*; \$1 an issue. P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547.

- **Sheldon Goldberg's Mat Marketplace** (May 1992): Contains wrestling's most complete classified section, with advertising sections for video tapes, magazines, merchandise, etc.; Mark Hewitt story on George Bothner of the early 1900s. *Bi-monthly*; \$2.50 an issue. P.O. Box 2371, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

- **Georgiann Makropoulos' Wrestling Chatterbox** (April 1992): Reprinting of recent newspaper articles on Johnny B. Badd, wrestling fans, wrestling schools, Kevin Von Erich (billed as a 30-year-old WWF wrestler) and several others getting stuck in the Beirut airport for 20 hours en route to a show, Hulk Hogan tearing down a historic house near Tampa and the WWF (on the John Arezzi-Vince Russo split by *New York Daily News* reporter Bob Raissman and the post-Donahue era by the *New York Post's* Phil Mushnick); Columns, regional reports, letters and more; 30 pages. *Monthly*; \$2.50 an issue; 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, NY 11102.

- **John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight** (May 11): Interview with Teddy Long (unlike me, John figured out how to use his tape recorder); Reprint of the Arezzi interview conducted in issues 30-31 of *Three Count*; Mat Memories on John turning 14 years old (no, wise guys, that wasn't in 1924). *Weekly*; \$1.50 an issue (samples available). 136 N. Carll Ave., Suite 125, Babylon, NY 11702.

THREE COUNT®

Alex Marvez. Editor/Publisher
Paul Hanlin Jr. Columnist
Carlos Rey. Lucha Libre
John Muse. Japan

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Mata vs. Federico: Suncoast's Best Ever

Henry Raines' Suncoast Pro Wrestling drew its largest crowd in more than one year May 16 at the Manatee County Civic Center in Bradenton, drawing about 200 fans (187 paid). The rise can be partially contributed to the use of Hispanic wrestlers on the show, with the crowd composition approximately 40 percent Hispanic. Results:

1) **Kino McKenzie** pinned **Ian Weston** when hooking Weston after being bodyslammed. Weston used a rough babyface style, and will likely turn heel a few months from now; 2) **The**

Alex Marvez



Giant Outlaw (Bob Garst) pinned **Bobby Blaze** with a Tiger suplex. Blaze carried this match well, turning it into a better bout than the **Dean Malenko-Outlaw** match from April 18; 3) **Jose Lopez** defeated **Johnny Black** with a splash off the top rope; 4) In a "Mexican title match," **El Tigre** pinned **The Masked Superstar (Bob Cook)**. Superstar carried this to an above-average match despite working with back pain. Quick -- someone ask **Carlos Rey** or **Steve Sims** where **El Tigre** ranks among Mexico's finest; 5) In the worst match in Suncoast history, **The Bounty Hunter** pinned **Poison Ivy**. Hunter was so green he didn't need to wear camouflage. He used about a dozen lariats during the match, usually connecting with Ivy's face. The pin came when Hunter lifted his shoulder up on a double-pin count after an Ivy belly-to-back suplex.

6) **Ultraman** pinned **The Ninja** with a Northern Lights suplex in an above-average match. Ninja is **Ugi**, a Japanese student from **Larry Malenko's** wrestling school. (Ugi travelled from Japan to the U.S. about a year ago without having ever contacted Malenko, journeying on Malenko's reputation alone. Ugi arrived at Malenko's house, and Malenko took him in. That will tell you something about both Ugi and Malenko and their love for the business). A **Ninja II** ran in after the match to double-team on Ultraman, but Blaze came out to make the save (This match was taped because Blaze and Ultraman are trying to get booked as a team in Japan); 7) Ironically, this match was arguably Suncoast's best ever as **Raul Mata** defeated **Rico Federico** via disqualification in 19:52 of a 20-minute match (They were asked to go 15 minutes, but I guess they were having too much fun). Mata is in his mid-40s (at least), yet still works (and looks) better than most young workers. The finish came when Federico hip tossed Mata over the top rope to break out of an abdominal stretch; 8) The prestigious Suncoast tag-team titles were held up between **Vern Henderson-Gator Gilmore** (champions) and **The South-**

ern Posse (Rick Thames-Sonny T). Yes, Thames and T survived a squash match against the Steiners on May 1. This was a much better match than their April 18 debacle, with the champions cooperating and selling moves. Henderson went for a super-plex, but was pushed off the second rope by **Fritzi**, the Posse's manager. Sonny then hit Henderson with an elbow off the second rope, and referee Raines counted the pinfall. Second referee **Dave Penzer** emerged and finked about what happened. Raines allowed the decision to stand, but held the belts up (typical wrestling logic, I guess); 9) **Wendi Richter** and **Penelope Paradise** fought to a 20-minute draw. It was an above-average match, with Penelope doing all she could with someone who wouldn't take bumps. Wendi did sign loads of autographs, though.

Notes: Suncoast returns to Bradenton July 25 (**Debbie Malenko** will be on the card. Sigh ... she is fantastic); Expect Mata to continue working with this group, and possibly one or two other big names on a one-shot basis.

• **More independent news:** I attended a **Craig Cohen Wild Women of Wrestling** show May 22 at **Champagne's** in Homestead, Fla. Paid attendance was 19, but the show was guaranteed. Penelope worked twice -- once under a hood as the Mexican women's champion (**Carlos**, **Steve** -- please do something about this by reporting these bogus champions to the Mexican wrestling commission) defeating **Linda Ryder** and once as Penelope defeating **Big Bad Mama**. She and I also did a gimmick where I was introduced as a member of the Florida wrestling commission (some of you will get a kick out of that). A six-woman tag-team match was originally scheduled, but because of no-shows we did an angle where I said I was pre-empting the match to hold the semifinal of the Florida heavy-weight title tournament between **Lastat (Dave Heath)** in a vampire gimmick from **Ayn Rand's** book -- thanks to fellow writer and former wrestler **Bob Roop** for the literary information) and **Rick Ryder**. Lastat and manager **Luna Vachon** came out screaming at me until Ryder showed up. Penelope and I took a powder and then they wrestled to an above-average match, ending when Lastat pinned Ryder with a second-rope DDT after Ryder was distracted by Vachon (I forgot to ask Craig when the finals of the Florida title match were to be held). Other matches on the card included **Death Row 3260** and **Miser Moore** (who work well together) defeating two job guys and Vachon pinning **Maliah Hosaka** after Lastat DDT'd Hosaka. I believe the two have a rematch June 26 in Homestead. Line of the night went to ring announcer **Howard Baum**: "There's no Kawada and Kikuchi here." ... **Hercules vs. Marty Janetty** headlined a May 16 show at the Bazaar flea market in Fort Lauderdale. Another flea market show is scheduled for June ... A **Tyree Pride-Bobby Wales** show drew a couple of hundred people May 16 at Miami Edison High.

View From the Northeastern Lights...

Fujinami Cutting Teeth in Philly

Late word just in ... **Michael Jordan** of the Chicago Bulls last week blamed World Championship Wrestling and its television shows for the physical play of the New York Knicks in their NBA quarterfinal series. He stated there were televised three- and four-on-one assaults by members of "something called the Dangerous Alliance," and the Kicks emulated those TV characters on the court.

"First, *Murphy Brown*, now this," Jordan wailed. "Why can't everybody be like Mike? Or at least be a nation who likes the Waltons instead of those goofball Simpsons?"

Paul Hanlin Jr.

Touche ...

Now that everyone's had their fun with **J. Danforth Quayle**, draft dodger *par excellence*, let us now praise **Madusa** one more time. When she's not walking on tops of cages on PPV's with less than one percent buy rates, she's giving interview of the year material on *WCW Main Event* to hype the PPV bikini contest between herself and **Missy Hyatt** on June 20. In other words, folks, just ripping Ms. Hyatt.

Thanks to *Three Count* reader **Chuck Langerman** for his kind words last week. We here at pro wrestling's fastest growing sheet do things post quick, Chuck, so here are my thoughts on the Eastern Championship Wrestling card held May 25 at the Philadelphia Original Sports Bar.

I attended the show at the last minute, mainly for the local debut of **Tatsumi Fujinami**, who is working an angle with New Japan Pro Wrestling to start from the bottom and work his way back after his showing at *Wrestle War* against the Steiners. More on Fujinami later.

For the most part, the ECW is made up of guys whose prior employer was the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance. The boss man is **Todd Gordon**, who was the first voice you heard when **Joel Goodhart** and **Carmela Panfil** were doing their radio show before the two went their separate ways:

I had an enjoyable time. There were eight matches, three of which were better than anything on the Whiff's last show at the Spectrum. They are top-heavy with managers, with four: **Hunter Q. Thompson**, **Steve Wonderful**, **Peaches** and **Devious Don E. Allen**.

When I was employed by *Pro Wrestling Sushi*, its editor, **Jeff Mullins**, reminded me that sometimes if you want to see wrestling the way it should be, the independent circuit is the best bet. You can see guys trying their best, cutting their teeth in the business before they graduate to the big time and get swallowed up by the national guys -- or corrupted by them.

Do I think the ECW will be as successful as Goodhart's Tri-State group? As long as they spend within their means, yes. Even on short notice, they did draw a decent crowd for a sports bar. The WWA's **Larry Sharpe** and **Dennis Caroluzzo** were backstage, along with three Japanese reporters and a crew



from TV-Asahi (New Japan's network) covering Fujinami's long road back.

About that ... apparently he didn't get medical clearance to work full tilt, since he defeated his opponent in a scant 1:22. It was hard to tell just how good he looked. Perhaps he wasn't fully recovered from the shoot job the Steiners did on him at *Wrestle War*. Good news about **Takayuki Iizuka**: According to a Japanese reporter I was talking to during intermission, he's doing better recovery-wise since the aforementioned shoot job from the team that has fallen out of favor with the hard-core fans as-of-late. I will contribute my two Lincoln pennies to the discussion next week.

Also, many thanks to Deborah from New Jersey and Craig from Brooklyn who attended the show and who I had the pleasure of talking to on the train ride home. I apologize, Deborah, for botching your name as I was about to get off the train. Sometimes I forget people's names.

I'm on the hunt for the following items, since I have the space this week: 1) A tape of the Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling show in Los Angeles last week; 2) The commercial for McDonald's with winter Olympics double gold medalist **Bonnie Blair** rollerblading to her favorite restaurant, with her mother pulling up alongside her in the family car urging her to go faster; 3) A tape of the final episode of *Love and Curses*, a fantasy series that also had another title, *She Wolf of London*, called "Eclipse." It was the only episode I missed, since the rape ran out in the middle of it. I can trade tapes from just about anywhere in exchange, mostly from the early to late 1980s, with mostly all promotions.

So, I would like to recommend ECW to a friend. Catch all of the independent cards you can. Looks like that's the only wrestling we'll see in this town anytime in the summer of 1992.

Results (rating in the five-star system): 1) **Wildman Sal Bellomo** (yes, the same one formerly with the WWF) defeated **Steve Richards** in 4:26 with a splash. * 1/2; 2) **The Super Destroyers** defeated **The Crusader-John Rock** in 9:59 when Rock was pinned after a shoulder block off the top rope (not the turnbuckle, the ropes). The Super D's left Rock laying afterward. **; 3) **Larry Winters** pinned **King Kahlua** in 11:18 with a schoolboy cradle. **The Sandman** and ECW champion **Johnny Hotbody** did a run in and stuff-piledrove Winters onto Sandman's surfboard. ** for the match, **** for the stuff piledriver. Winters was stretched out; 4) Hotbody defeated **Jimmy Jannetty** in 8:55 with a super-plex. Jannetty did a **Tiger Mask** dive onto Hotbody and manager Allen; *** 1/2; 5) **Tony Stetson** defeated **Metal Maniac** via disqualification in 7:16 when Sandman and Hotbody interfered again. 1/2*; 6) **Nightbreed (Max Thrasher-Glen Osborne)** defeated **Mr. Anthony-Rick Perez** in 15:54 when Osborne pinned Perez after Anthony's hair spray (yes, a gay gimmick) accidentally went awry. Dud; 7) Sandman and **J.T. Smith** went to a double countout. Excellent work for both. *** 1/2; 8) Fujinami (in street clothes) defeated **The Bouncer** in 82 seconds with a sleeper. Bouncer taunted Fujinami, who was sitting at the bar before he hit the ring. The Dragon signed autographs at \$2 a pop afterwards. 1/4*.

Infernales Split Possible in CMLL

The May 24 CMLL show on Galavision was definitely better than the shows the past two weeks. It started off well and ended with a bang -- and you can't ask for much more than that. Hopefully, next week will be the last CMLL show at Arena Coliseo, signaling the end of this group's "slow season" and putting us back at the larger Arena Mexico with all the top names and great shows. I've been told by a very good source (Steve Sims) that next week's show will be headlined by a rematch of this week's main event, which should be a great match. Also, the most interesting thing that is that the show may not even be telecast, as they may air Antonio Pena's new AAA

Carlos Rey

show instead. Or, they may air both groups, with CMLL on Sunday and AAA on another day. Next week will turn out to be interesting to say the least.



1) Los Guerreros (Guerrero del Futuro-Damian el Guerrero-Guerrero Maya) defeated The Martial Artists (Guerrero Samaraí-Koga-Iga) in two-of-three falls. This was action-packed from the start, with Samurai (who is Mexican, not Japanese) seeming right at home teaming with Koga and Iga. The rudos won the first fall when Iga and Samurai were pinned by all three Guerreros and Koga was left unable to answer the count. The technicos finally broke the rudos momentum late in the second fall, ending with Iga pinning Maya, Koga belly-to-back suplexing Futuro and Samurai doing a lance (leap through the ring ropes outside the ring) onto Damian, leaving him unable to answer the count. The third fall could have gone either way, but Samaraí pinned Futuro with a spectacular backward elbow drop off the top rope.

Before the next match, the recent death of legendary luchador **Rene Guajardo** was mentioned. As chronicled in Steve's *Lucha Libre Weekly*, Guajardo had a match with another lucha legend, **Karloff Lagarde**, that ended when a drunk fan entered the ring and knocked both men out with a beer bottle. On television, old black and white wrestling clips were shown and it was mentioned Guajardo, 59, had won three mask vs. mask and 10 hair vs. hair matches.

2) This is what I would call a dark match -- one so bad it shouldn't have been shown. The most exciting thing about this match was **Comando Ruso** showing up with a new jacket, mask and costume, so no one, even the announcers, knew who he was until he took his mask off. This match (Ruso-Kung Fu-Supremo I vs. Filoso-America-Anibal) should have been much better because of America, Filoso and Supremo, who used to be a very good worker. Actually, I think Ruso isn't that bad, but he really needs to change his Russian gimmick. Oh, the world's most beloved referee, **El Gato Montini**, returned during this match after a two-week suspension by the Mexican wrestling commission. The technicos won the first fall as Anibal pinned Kung Fu with a cradle roll-up into a small package, America pinned Ruso and Filoso chased Supremo from the ring. The rudo comeback in the second fall culminated with Ruso pinning America with a foot on his chest, Fu pinning Anibal after the infamous

Hulk Hogan legdrop to the neck and Supremo rendering Filoso unable to enter the ring. The third fall was decided between the team captains, as Supremo pinned Filoso after a suplex. After the match, Supremo ripped off Filoso's mask and threw it to the crowd. But what is amazing is that the fans returned it so Filoso's identity would not be exposed. Had this happened here, Filoso would never have seen that mask again!

3) The tecnico team of **Solomon Grundy-Blue Demon Jr.-Ciclon Ramirez** defeated **Felino-El Egipcio-Jerry "El Puma" Estrada** in two-of-three falls in an average match. This match concentrated around the feud between Ramirez, the National Welterweight champion, and Felino. The first fall ended when Grundy pinned Egipcio with a splash off the top rope, Demon pinned Estrada and Ramirez made sure Felino did not answer the bell. The rudo comeback saw Egipcio and Estrada pin Grundy, Egipcio used a version of the backbreaker to make Demon submit and Felino completely destroyed Ramirez outside the ring. The third fall was decided by the team captains, as Ramirez applied a power bomb on Felino for the pin. Ramirez asked for a mask vs. mask match with Felino after the match.

4) This was the main event match, and with good reason. The rudo team of **Los Infernales (Pirata Morgan-MS1-El Satanico)** lost to technicos **Rayo de Jalisco Jr.-Atlantis-Lizmark** in an outstanding match. Montini hasn't changed his officiating style, as Satanico put Jalisco in a corner and repeatedly low blowed him without any penalty. The rudos won the first fall after Atlantis and Lizmark were pinned by all three rudos, and Jalisco suffered the same fate after an impressive top-rope splash by MS1 halfway across the ring. The second fall saw a quick tecnico comeback, with Atlantis looking excellent. Jalisco pinned MS1, Lizmark used the infamous huracarana on Satanico for the pin and Atlantis leaped off the top rope onto Morgan for a pin. At this point, Atlantis grabbed Montini from the back and Jalisco was set to slap him when second referee **Roberto Rangel** intervened. But when Rangel turned his back, Jalisco slapped Montini anyway (a rarity in Mexico). The rudos looked like they would take the third fall, with Jalisco's mask even coming off for a few seconds (revealing a pony tail, which I would never have expected Jalisco to have). This match was capped by Jalisco pinning team captain Morgan with an inside cradle for the victory. At this point, Satanico turned on Morgan verbally. He refused to shake hands with him and grabbed the house microphone, and stated he was tired of carrying the team and they would have to start carrying their own weight. He then asked Morgan to come to the microphone and explain why he had lost. Morgan said the reason was because he was training so much and the travel caused him to have an off-night. Satanico replied that all three had been traveling, that Morgan had already caused the team to lose the six-man championships and now this happened. Morgan replied that next time he would do better. Satanico cooled off and said maybe he had reacted wrongly, and the trio walked off together. MS1 tried to act as a mediator, but appeared on Morgan's side during the argument. This could be the beginning of the end for one of the world's best, if not the best, six-man tag-teams.

Carlos Rey has video tapes of Galavision shows available. Write to him at 996 West 45th Place, Hialeah FL 33012 for more information.

SWS Fall Continues; WWF's Fault?

Super World Sports, a promotion that has been plagued with problems since its inception, suffered a major loss last week when five of its wrestlers walked out. **George and Shunji Takano, Naoki Sano, Kenichi Oya, and Don Arakawa** entered the ring at the May 19 show and quit the SWS, citing differences with booker **Genichiro Tenryu**.

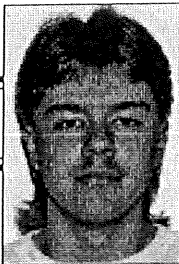
This marks the second time that someone has been in the ring and aired their problems with the SWS in front of an audience. In April 1991, **Koji Kitao** vented his frustrations in the

John Muse

ring. Some fans will remember Kitao as being Tenryu's tag-team partner at the less-than-memorable *Wrestlemania VII* show from Los Angeles. Stemming back to his days with New Japan Pro Wrestling, Kitao was not very popular with the hard-core fans. They saw him as a wrestler getting a main-event push even though he didn't have main-event talent. Kitao's push came from his career in sumo wrestling, where he was a former grand champion. It was after a match with another former sumo wrestler, **John "Earthquake" Tenta**, that Kitao lost his cool. After losing the match and being booed mercilessly, Kitao insulted Tenta and used the words "fake wrestling." Needless to say, Kitao no longer works for the SWS.

The loss of the five wrestlers comes at a time when **Hachiro Tanaka**, owner of the SWS, Pro Wrestling Fujiwara (a shoot-fighting group) and Megame Super Optics (a multi-million dollar eye glass company), is questioning the future of the SWS. The SWS has been losing money hand-over-fist from the start. The failure can be blamed on bad business decisions and a poor in-ring product. The contributing factor in all this is the arrangement Tanaka made with the World Wrestling Federation. The WWF rarely sent anyone who could work the Japanese style and mean anything at the box office. Occasionally, **Hulk Hogan** or the **Legion of Doom** would come in, but the appearances would hurt the SWS more than help. For example, Hogan pinned Tenryu cleanly last December when Hogan should have lost to give Tenryu some credibility. Or when the L.O.D. came in and won a tag-team tournament last August by defeating Tenryu and **Ashura Hara** in a six-minute destruction match. When all was said and done, Tenryu's box office appeal was hurt and the SWS is now in big trouble.

Dave Meltzer of the *Wrestling Observer* is reporting the SWS will continue without those five wrestlers (regarded as the group's best workers), and will concentrate on a Tenryu-**Kabuki** feud. Kabuki is now doing a shooting-style gimmick



in the ring. If Tanaka is smart, he will make some changes in regards to his relationship with the WWF.

P-P-Pro Wrestling New-w-w-s: All Japan Pro Wrestling remains as hot as ever. The show slated for the 14,500-seat Budokan Hall in Tokyo June 5 already sold out with only one match announced -- **Stan Hansen** will be defending his triple crown against **Toshiaki Kawada** in the main event. This would be the perfect time for booker **Giant Baba** to give one of his younger stars a victory over the veteran Hansen. Two years ago, **Mitsuhara Misawa** upset **Jumbo Tsuruta** to automatically establish himself as a superstar. Although Misawa has not beaten Tsuruta in a singles match since then, that one victory gave Misawa the credibility he needed in the fans' eyes. Hansen, unlike Tsuruta, has yet to lose a singles bout against Misawa or the other "young lions" and one loss will not hurt Hansen's appeal (as Tsuruta's loss has proven). After years of losing the big matches to Tsuruta's back suplex or Hansen's lariat, Kawada desperately needs the "big" win. Given all I have written above, look for Hansen to pin Kawada after two lariats.

- New Japan ran a big show May 17 in Osaka, setting the cities indoor attendance record with a crowd of 15,000. The main matches saw **Riki Choshu** retain the IWGP title by pinning **Keiji Muto**, **Antonio Inoki-Hiroshi Hase** defeating **Brad Rhengans-Rambo** and **Super Strong Machine** upsetting **Masa Chono**.

- **Don Nakaya Neilson**, of the famous 1986 mixed match against **Akira Maeda**, scored a big win over **Yoshiaki Fujiwara** May 15 in Osaka. Neilson knocked out a bloody Fujiwara in 1:07 of the first round. Fujiwara, according to Meltzer, reportedly has a broken nose and orbital bone above the eye.

- And now a personal note, if you please (Yes, **Gordon Solie's** influence stretches all the way up to Taylor, Mich.). After watching *Wrestle War*, I can honestly say that I have lost all respect for the Steiners as wrestlers. Let's take a look at the body count these guys have racked up. **Sid Vicious** (punctured lung, more on him later), **Jerry Saggs** (nose), **Takayuki Iizuka** (face), countless jobbers (countless injuries) and I'm sure I have left some people out. I can understand an accident here or there, but I'm picking up a trend. Sid is no angel when it comes to injuring people, but I believe Sid just has no idea what in the world he is doing in the ring and shouldn't be in one. I feel the Steiners know exactly what they're doing, but simply don't care about the person they're doing it to. Wrestling is a sport of give and take. The Steiners must think that means take control and give punishment. I'm looking forward to the Steiners vs. **Steve Williams-Terry Gordy** feud. It will be nice to see the Steiners take what they like to give so much.

Spotlight on: Vince Russo

In Issues 30-31 of *Three Count*, the plight of Pro Wrestling Spotlight founder John Arezzi was featured in a lengthy interview. Arezzi, who produces a newsletter and hosts a radio show under the PWS logo, explained the details of his split with Vince Russo, a New York City video store owner who sponsored Arezzi's show. The effect of the split still lingers today. He is also producing the PWS newsletter without Russo, and has agreed to give up to a three-month subscription for free for anyone who subscribed to the PWS produced by Arezzi and Russo.

This interview was conducted May 6, two weeks before Russo ceased publication of his newsletter, *Vicious Vince's World of Wrestling*. Russo said the corporation went bankrupt, and refunds will not be given to those who subscribed to the Russo-Arezzi newsletter. Russo said he plans to begin publication of a newsletter in three-to-six months once his radio show is established.

This part of the interview chronicles the time from when Russo attended the World Wrestling Federation's May 24 steroid symposium until the first week of May. Written responses to the three-part interview by Arezzi and Wrestling Observer Newsletter editor Dave Meltzer (among others) will be given next week.

VR: When I first met with (WWF spokesman) Steve Planamenta and Vince, I explained to them that it was a very difficult thing being there. Because being around John Arezzi and Dave Meltzer, it was more or less like ... you're around these guys for so long that it's almost like you get brainwashed that Vince McMahon and the WWF are evil. "They are the enemy. Everything they say is a lie. You never get the truth from them." This is all I was hearing, over and over and over again. So I just said that it was difficult to be with them because I had been on the other side. I had been with the John Arezzi's and the Dave Meltzer's, and everything I hear about the WWF is so negative that this is a very difficult thing to do. I said, "The reason I am here is because I don't believe in pre-judging you. You are giving a steroid symposium. I am giving you the benefit of the doubt. I am going to believe in what you are saying and cover it as a straight news story for our newsletter." I don't remember the exact conversation, but one thing that really stood out in my mind that I will never forget is when we got to talking about Phil Mushnick. A couple of days earlier, I had read a Mushnick column and what really stuck out in my mind is when he compared Vince McMahon to Hannibal Lecter. What really grabbed me that day was when talking to Vince McMahon, he said he had never met Phil Mushnick face-to-face. He said he had tried to set up a few appointments with Phil, but he would never meet him. That part meant nothing to me, whether (Vince) was lying or telling the truth. What meant something to me is that you have a man writing for a major paper in New York City who calls himself a journalist who compares a man -- because, when all is said and done, Vince McMahon is a man -- that he has never even met to Hannibal Lecter. When he told me he had never even met Phil Mushnick, even though I didn't say anything to Vince at the time, that didn't sit well with me. But we dropped it at that, and nothing more was said about it.

After that, they had lunch. I didn't eat and I sat there by myself. Then I spoke a few minutes to Planamenta, Shane and Linda (McMahon) introduced themselves to me and were very nice for a first appearance, and then basically everyone was leaving. I, Vincent Russo, approached Vince McMahon and told him that personally I don't agree with the direction our radio show is going in, and personally I never wanted to do a radio show like this. I wanted to do a radio show to have fun. That's what I thought it was going to be about, because professional wrestling was always fun to me. That's why I got into this business. To have fun with this. If I knew it was going to get to where it is now, I would have never gotten involved, because I can't stand the direction the show was headed in. Vince said to me, "You know, your show doesn't have to be like that. You can have fun with your show, have wrestlers on your show, contests, etc." I said not for nothing, but this is the type of show I originally wanted to do.

AM: Do you feel these stories that have come out deserve coverage?

VR: I feel a couple of ways. Number one, as far as the child sex abuse, the three people who were constantly getting fingers pointed to are Mel Phillips, Pat Patterson and Terry Garvin, OK? They are gone. They are no longer with the World Wrestling Federation. Now, the big issue is whether Vince McMahon knew about it or not. Well, I wasn't involved. I don't know Vince McMahon, so whether he knew about it or not, I don't have a clue. But I will say that the three of them are no longer with the WWF, and, No. 2, if Vince McMahon did know about this, any boss in any business, I don't care if it's Lee Iaccoca or who it is, is going to cover for his employees. It's business. I don't care if it's Vince McMahon or Donald Trump. But as far as I'm concerned, the three individuals who we've heard about over and over and over

again are gone.

AM: Thus, that should have been the end of the story?

VR: What else do you want the man to say? The man was sitting on Donahue, and everything is a Patterson story, a Garvin story and a Mel Phillips story. They're no longer employed by the WWF. Period. You keep telling the stories that it's horrible, it's this and it's that ... they're gone!

AM: It's been proven that Vince has lied about the Murray Hodgson lawsuit on the Donahue show. Do you think that by lying Vince kept the publicity going on this story?

VR: You have to understand something. I'm not expecting the story to go away, I am not in any way, shape or form defending Vince McMahon. But how can I have any idea of what this man knew or what he didn't? Nobody has an idea. Maybe Vince McMahon has an idea and those close to him in the WWF, but other than that, nobody knows for sure. I am not going to be a judge or a jury and hang this man. I know first-hand that you have people out there like John Arezzi and Phil Mushnick who are twisting quotes around, twisting stories around to make the story worse than it is. I know that for a fact. That is what I have a problem with. If Vince or the WWF did something that was illegal, that is why we have a judicial system. That is why we have a legal system. What irks me is when fellow journalists, because I do consider myself a journalist, are twisting things around or padding stories or stretching the truth or sensationalizing it to make the story worse than it is.

AM: What did John and Phil do to twist the truth?

VR: John came later. I'll get to that in a minute. When I was there with Vince, I said I wished we could talk about this further and we could have a relationship. We are both in the wrestling business, and possibly we can set up a meeting and talk about this in the future. Vince said to me, "You talk to Steve Planamenta first and maybe we'll get together."

I came back and called John on the phone. John came in the office, and I told him exactly what I said to you. I said, "John, I think we should get together with them and see if there is some kind of relationship we can have, because it is not in our best interests to be enemies with these people." And it's not. I'll say that a million times, and if people think something is wrong with me for saying that, they're out of their minds, because I'm a business man. It was not in our best interests to be enemies with them. I wanted to have a sit down and say, "What don't you like that we do? What are the do's and don'ts? Let us know what offends you and how can we work together here?" In this office, John agreed we would contact Planamenta and make a meeting.

I called Planamenta, and we had a meeting all worked out. Him and I were originally going to go up there and sit down with Planamenta first. Vince McMahon wasn't expecting we were going to go into his office and talk to us. As far as the other stuff, I was like, "John, listen. If Vince McMahon is guilty of all this, you have let it be known to the public. I'm sure the FBI is looking into this now. But this is why we have the judicial system. You've carried the word, it's out there. Let the authorities take care of it now. I think it's time we start covering wrestling again, because we've done all we can do." That's how I put it to him.

AM: I would like to return to the part about John and Phil padding the truth ...

VR: I went to the symposium. Keep in mind, I audio taped it. They did it for me. To this day, I have the audio tape. The symposium was on a Tuesday. I open up the *New York Post* on Wednesday. The first thing Mushnick says that I had a real problem with is, "The twisted men of the WWF are at it again." What does that mean? That any man employed by the WWF

is twisted? Chief Jay Strongbow is twisted? Ric Flair is twisted? Every accountant is twisted? I had a problem with that off the bat. This is what I mean about objectivity and being biased.

AM: Phil's a columnist, right? I can go to your newsletter and read your Wrestlemania critique and say your writing your opinion, too.

VR: This is part of my problem. Vince McMahon is a genius, fine. The twisted men of the World Wrestling Federation -- I have a problem with this. Now, we're not going after Vince McMahon anymore. Now, we're going after the whole WWF. Now we're going after everybody employed by the WWF. Secretaries, accountants, wrestlers that I have had the opportunity to meet and spend time with that I know are good fathers and good husbands and good people. And now they're the twisted men of the WWF. You see, if you're going to go after Vince McMahon, fine. Go after Vince McMahon. But don't go after the WWF and claim that every employee and every wrestler in the WWF is twisted and involved in this in some way. As a wrestling fan, that's where I have a big problem with this.

AM: You believe that was the connotation Phil was trying to make?

VR: Absolutely. They are trying to pull down Vince McMahon. They are trying to pull down the WWF with him and that is absolutely wrong, because you have hundreds of people in the WWF who don't have a God damn thing to do with anything. I have a problem when you are writing in the *New York Post* and you are going after an entire organization of people who had nothing to do with anything. The reason why I feel even stronger about that is... I own a video store. Do you know how many kids that came in here wanted to know, "Randy Savage abuses children?" or "Ric Flair is a homosexual." This is what kids were reading into what he was saying. On top of that, he pretty much says only mindless people or credibility-free people were invited to the steroid symposium. I was invited to the steroid symposium. I'm not an idiot. I know what's going on. I took offense to that remark. Point No. 3 -- He goes on to discredit Dr. Mauro DiPasquale. Phil Mushnick never went to the symposium. Now he's writing about something that he never even went to. And he was invited, sent and faxed an invitation and does not go. Yet, he's going to cover it anyway. From a journalistic point of view, I have a problem with all that. But, that's not even what's annoying me. I let that go. On Wednesday, I called John and said I have a real problem with what Phil Mushnick wrote. I want to go on the air and tell the people exactly what was covered in the symposium, talk about Phil Mushnick and expose his true colors. I think people should know that Phil Mushnick has never met Vince McMahon, was sent and faxed an invitation, decided not to go, and, one step further, decided he was going to write about it. I think people need to see this side of the story. John said he disagreed about Mushnick, but if I wanted to debate Phil on the issue, that would be fine. I said that was fine, but this is something that needs to be said, because I never knew Mushnick had never met Vince McMahon until Vince told me. He did not one time say he did not go to the steroid symposium in the story. He didn't say he was sent and faxed an invitation. If you're going to tell a story, tell the whole story. John ended the conversation by saying that I shouldn't be surprised if there was another story in the *Post* (Thursday), which told me had spoken to Mushnick again. Also, I had given Arezzi all the materials I had gotten from the symposium, including the audio tape. I didn't hold back anything from him. So I buy a *New York Post* and I read about how Vince McMahon on *Larry King Live* said nobody was on (steroids) and how 50 percent are (now), blah, blah, blah. I have the audio tape and what ~~Vince~~ McMahon said word-for-word. The doctor gave Vince McMahon a report that he referred to on the video tape, where basically ...

AM: (interrupting) Dr. Anthony Daly said no one had tested positive ...

VR: Because (steroids) was in their system (Editor's note: Daly claimed that testosterone levels taken in four tests showed the figure dropping, thus the 50 percent of the wrestlers who initially tested positive in November ~~where~~ getting off steroids. The claim has been discredited because of the "bounce back" theory, which means the testosterone level of a steroid user rises initially when they get off the drug because the body resumes natural production of the chemical. Thus, WWF wrestlers should have had higher testosterone levels rather than lower).

AM: I know the whole story. I also know why Anthony Daly has been discredited.

VR: Whatever. This is what Vince McMahon was quoting from. Phil Mushnick took that, completely changed around what McMahon said

and made it look like McMahon was a liar. I came back to my office, listened to the tape again to make sure my ears were right and I was 100 percent correct. He twisted the words around to make Vince McMahon look like nothing more than a liar. That was it for me. Now we have the *New York Post* ... God knows how many kids and people are reading this. Like I said, if Vince McMahon is guilty of certain things, fine. It will all come out in a lawsuit. But a writer in the *New York Post* stretched the truth, he outright lied. I called John and screamed at him, saying "How could you give this information to Phil Mushnick when he completely twisted it around? John, this is not what was said. You know this was not what was said by Vince McMahon. How can you continue to feed this man information?" So he turned around and got upset, and said he didn't give Mushnick the information. Five minutes later, the phone rings again. John Arezzi is on with Phil Mushnick. Mushnick says, "You've got a problem with me?" I said, "Yes, I have a very big problem with you. You are a liar. You make me ashamed to be a journalist. I was at the steroid symposium, I have an audio tape, and this is not what was said. You are a liar. Period." At that point, he was yelling and screaming at me. I told him he was nobody to me and I'm not going to take him screaming at me. John tried to interject, because he wanted to get the point across that he wasn't the one who told Phil. Someone from *USA Today* did. I said I was sorry and owed John an apology. After that, Phil Mushnick continued to yell and scream and I hung up the phone on him. I'm not going to argue with a liar. Maybe an hour passes and John shows up here with his brother-in-law. I still don't know why.

AM: He said because he wanted a witness that he was breaking up the business.

VR: Fine. John comes in here and he ends this relationship. Not Vince Russo, not the sell out. I said that if that's the way he feels, fine.

AM: John says that you said, "You know, you're broke now, and you're going to be broke for the rest of your life. You're missing an opportunity here that will never happen again. You've been in the wrestling business for years, and you never make any money. Oh, and by the way, I own the name 'Pro Wrestling Spotlight.'"

VR: I'll address that. After the relationship had already ended, I was still trying to explain to him from a business point of view that if you are going to cover professional wrestling, you are going to give the fans what they want. You have to try and have a relationship with the No. 1 wrestling federation. Otherwise you're going to be broke, you're not going to make and money, you are going to get nowhere, I said why do you think after three years you have not made any money.

AM: Where does that leave Dave Meltzer?

VR: Dave Meltzer was the guru. He invented the newsletter. He has 5,000 readers. He could care less whether the WWF talks to him or not. Dave Meltzer has stacks of money in his house. Dave came up with a good idea, he has every serious fan subscribing to his newsletter. He's got a following, he's got a reputation, he's been doing this for years.

AM: But Dave still covers the WWF and writes about them. Anyway, do you think John, had he approached the show differently and gotten non-WWF wrestlers on the show in the situation he wanted -- non-character, open interviews -- could things have been different then? Did he have to deal with the WWF?

VR: I think so. I'm sitting next to John every week (in the radio studio) and ninety percent of the callers, maybe 95 percent, had WWF questions. Do you know how many people, when *The Ultimate Warrior* left, called and asked where he is? And he was getting so pissed off! He didn't even want to address it! That's what all these people wanted to know. If you're a business man sitting there week in and week out asking him about this, what does it tell you? And when people would call and try to ask, he would cut them off. He didn't want to have anything to do with it. You know what the sad thing is? I had to meet with John's old station (WGGB). The station manager, who John owes \$7,000, said I had to know one thing. John Arezzi came to him with the same idea. He came wanting to do the same thing I wanted to do. This is how the show started. John's first guest was Jimmy Hart. Then John had Fred Blassie, both from the WWF. But what happened was John got involved in the steroid issue and he now wanted to become a journalist. He started cutting kids off on the phone. He no longer wanted to talk to the kids and just talk about steroids or the journalistic aspects of covering professional wrestling. That's when he started getting in the hole financially. Meltzer and John both told me that (Meltzer) was invited to the steroid symposium, that McMahon offered to pay his plane fare, and he decided not to go.

AM: Dave did talk to DiPasquale the day after the symposium, VR: Let me tell you, I have nothing against Dave Meltzer. I don't agree with what Dave Meltzer does. I really don't, only because I'm involved in the business now. But I tell you what. I have a great respect for him. I think he's great at what he does. But what I'm getting at is that John's first show following the whole mess, the first words out of his mouth were, "Nobody from the wrestling media was invited to the WWF steroid symposium."

AM: That's not true. Two people were.

VR: When I addressed that to John after the show, I told him, "You're as bad as (Mushnick). Meltzer was invited." He said that if he did say that, he was wrong and he would go on the radio and make a statement. I haven't heard that statement made. The only person I've seen write anything about it is (*Pro Wrestling Torch* editor) Wade Keller, where he wrote in his newsletter that Mushnick and Meltzer were invited and didn't go. I even wrote in my newsletter, "Thank you, Wade Keller, for pointing that out." But John Arezzi never addressed that. Another little thing that comes into play here is that before that first show where John went on after the break-up, he called me and said he didn't know what to say about the break-up. I was very cordial, and told him to say we broke up for business and creative differences. We talked about the name "Pro Wrestling Spotlight." I told him it meant nothing to me. But my newsletter is called Pro Wrestling Spotlight, and it's going to take some time to change the name not to confuse people. To be honest with you, I never really liked the name because I'm a very colorful person.

There's just two more quick things I want to bring up. He went on that show, and he was on a soap box for an hour. He made it look like I was, without a doubt, sold-out by Vince McMahon Jr. and he gave me hush money. I listened to the show afterwards, and he almost sounded like one of those preachers that you send money to. I couldn't believe he handled it that way. To go one step further, after I hung up with Mushnick, John Arezzi called my typesetter the morning afterward to find out what was going on with the newsletter. He said to them, "Vince isn't going to have a newsletter for long because there was a story coming out in the *New York Daily News*." I get a call from Bob Raissman of the *News*. I tell him my whole story. I go into details with him for about an hour. The story comes out, and he uses one quote of mine. He makes me look like a sell-out and makes John look like a hero. Then I find out Raissman is good friends with Phil Mushnick. So the bottom line is Mushnick can't write a story about me because I have an audio tape that proves him to be a liar, so he calls his friend Raissman. The next thing I know, a story comes out in the *Daily News* that makes it look like I took hush money from Vince McMahon Jr. All of it could have never even happened had he said we split for professional and creative reasons. Instead, he created this scenario.

AM: Let's talk about Steve Beverly's letter to the *Wrestling Observer* (where Steve, former editor of the *Matwatch* newsletter, said Russo had not paid him for the purchase of his mailing list and Steve did not condone Russo's newsletter). Are people requesting refunds, and are you giving them?

VR: I have, and absolutely not.

AM: Why?

VR: No. I, I have an attorney. They are still receiving a newsletter. I am busting my you-know-what to get the newsletter out. There was never at anytime, way, shape or form a money-back guarantee with the newsletter. I never heard that with any publication in my life. If the newsletter stops, well, that's a different story. I have no intention of the newsletter stopping, and I only intend to make the newsletter get better.

AM: People are thinking (when they subscribed) they were receiving the *Pro Wrestling Spotlight* written by John Arezzi. Now, they are receiving the *Pro Wrestling Spotlight* by Vince Russo.

VR: Can I tell you something? I can file Chapter 11, close my corporation and owe nobody nothing and never write another newsletter. I'm not doing that. That's the easy way out. People can write until they're blue in the face. If *Pro Wrestling Spotlight* is Chapter 11, people aren't going to be receiving a dime. I am doing my utmost best to fulfill the subscriptions. I don't have to do that. I can fold *Pro Wrestling Spotlight* tomorrow, open up a new corporation and start a new newsletter. But I'm not that way. If I'm as slimy and sleazy as everybody says I am, all I have to do is file Chapter 11 and that's the end of it. But that's not the right thing to do.

AM: This isn't meant as an insult, but I don't think a lot of current subscribers are happy with your output. How do you take that? Are things going up or down? What do you do in the future?

VR: It's a bad situation. Let me address the *Matwatch* situation,

because this all ties together. As far as Beverly saying he could pursue legal action, my name is the sole name under Pro Wrestling Spotlight. John went to Steve Beverly, made this deal for \$750 -- I didn't even know what the payments were -- when he had no money and told me about the deal after the fact. I, in no way, shape or form, would have agreed to pay \$750 for a mailing list when we didn't even have money on the radio. As far as legalities, what legalities? I signed nothing, I agreed to nothing, my name is on nothing ... I didn't even know about this transaction. I will be more than happy to send Steve Beverly his mailing list back, because the bottom line is, people that subscribe to *Matwatch* are not people who are going to be subscribing to my newsletter. They are not the people that I want. I have no need for these people. I will be more than happy to send Steve Beverly his mailing list back. I don't want it. But I have a real problem with a man who can't call me on the phone and say what's the story with the mailing list, because I would have told him exactly what I'm telling you. But, no, he had to write a letter to the *Observer*. And because of that, I have no respect whatsoever for this man. He will get his mailing list back. I don't want it. I don't want anything from anyone. The other day I got a phone call from Jim Cornette and he said, "Vince what's happening with my 'Early Years' tapes?" John told him to call me to get the money, while when he sold the tapes under Pro Wrestling Spotlight, the money from the sales were used to finance the radio show. But I am Pro Wrestling Spotlight, and I knew about that deal. He called me, asked me, and we agreed to work it out. There was no problem. He didn't go write letters to everyone. He called me. I'm here in the office everyday. I'll talk to anyone about anything. The only way I found out about the Beverly deal was through Prodigy (a computer service that carries wrestling news and gossip). Let me go back. I'll tell you what. Once I get my wrestling magazine to the point where I want it to be, I don't think there is going to be one wrestling fan who will be unhappy with it. Having a relationship with the WWF and WCW, which is a very difficult thing to do, there are going to be things in my magazine that other newsletters can't get. For those that aren't happy, that's unfortunate. If a major newspaper changes editorial boards, you're not going to get your money back just because you don't agree with what they're saying. You cannot be a real wrestling fan and have a problem with the way my newsletter is supposed to be.

Frey Transfers

(Continued from Page 1)

eliminating the false advertising of wrestlers at house shows. Frey says he has "no idea" where these policies stand under Watts.

"All I know is that if the (Wrestle War) pay-per-view is any indication, the approach to wrestling WCW has will be very different than what I would have had," Frey said. "I'm not saying that's good or bad, but it will be real different."

Sources close to Frey say he was extremely upset with the use of blood on the *Wrestle War* show. Four wrestlers (Steve Austin, Barry Windham, Arn Anderson and Dustin Rhodes) intentionally cut their foreheads with razor blades during the main event.

Ross was unavailable for comment. WCW media relations coordinator Mike Weber said Ross' new role will be more clearly defined after Watts enters WCW full-time June 1.

"I planned on really taking six months before making any major decisions," Frey said. "I thought it would take that long. I initiated a few things anyone could have done. I don't feel I made any huge changes. Maybe in attitude, but not in content."

"It's just one of those things in corporate life. When things change, you have the right to make changes. I don't hold it against (Turner executives Bob Dhue and Bill Shaw, who made the decision to hire Watts). It's their call. When Bill Shaw took over from Jack, he felt the wrestling side of the company should have a wrestling person running it."

Next issue: We went with the 10-page format this week, because there wasn't too much news and I figured using condensed type would give the same news that could be found in a 12-page issue without having to kill any additional trees. To comment on one thing, the **Vince Russo** interview was one of the most explosive pieces we have yet to run. I also understand that some people could care less about either Russo or John Arezzi and want to beat me for spending three issues on the interview. So, we will return to wrestler interviews for the next few weeks. We will also try to contain the interview into a two-issue space at most (I mistimed the Russo interview, and how could I foresee Bill Watts being hired in WCW?).

On a personal note, I leave to the New York Times May 31, and will be at Columbia University for 10 weeks (until August 8). Please continue sending subscription renewals to my house in Miami. Production of the newsletter will continue emanating from Gainesville. I will be listing a phone number of where I can be reached in New York during the next two issues. We might stick to a 10-page format next week, and then return to 12 pages after I get situated in the big apple. Oh, and I wanted to thank Mike Tenay for having me on the Wrestling Insiders radio show on May 23. See y'all in one week.

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8850 S.W. 19th Street
Miami FL 33165